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Serial No. 09/929,785

PATENT APPLICATION

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1           1. (currently amended) An electronic order and inventory information management  
2 system for use in managing a restaurant, comprising:

3           a portable hand-held data entry terminal having a display and having means for inputting  
4           restaurant order information, said data entry terminal having a transceiver for  
5           transmitting said order information;

6           a database having a plurality of product records associated with products offered for sale at  
7           the restaurant, each product record including at least a menu selling price, a present  
8           inventory quantity, and an identifier associated with a vendor;

9           a host computer having a transceiver for receiving said transmitted order information, said  
10          host computer being electrically connected to said database and to a wide-area  
11          computer network;

12         ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for decrementing a respective  
13          inventory quantity of a respective product record corresponding to a respective  
14          product when said respective product is included in said transmitted order  
15          information; and

16         ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for automatically transmitting a  
17          signal along said wide-area computer network to a vendor computer corresponding  
18          to a respective vendor identifier when said respective inventory quantity is less than  
19          a predetermined quantity, said signal being indicative of an order for an additional  
20          quantity of said respective product.

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1           2. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1  
2 wherein said host computer includes network circuitry for establishing a local area network  
3 between said host computer and remote network terminals;

4           said order and inventory information management system further comprising:

5                 a kitchen terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having  
6                         a display for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information  
7                         pertaining to a food order, said kitchen terminal adapted to transmit  
8                         messages back to said host computer indicative of fulfillment of said  
9                         food order;

10                a drink terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a  
11                         display for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information  
12                         pertaining to a drink order, said drink terminal adapted to transmit  
13                         messages back to said host computer indicative of fulfillment of said  
14                         drink order.

1           3. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1  
2 wherein said host computer includes means for associating said transmitted order information  
3 with respective menu selling prices from said database.

1           4. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 3  
2 further comprising a billing terminal electrically connected to said local area network for  
3 receiving said transmitted order information and said associated menu selling prices, said billing

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4 terminal including means for calculating a total order sales amount and means for printing said  
5 transmitted order information and said total order sales amount.

1 5. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1  
2 wherein said order information includes at least one customer seating location identifier and at  
3 least one food selection associated with said at least one seating location identifier, said at least  
4 one food selection corresponding to a respective product record.

1 6. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1  
2 wherein said data entry terminal comprises:  
3 a housing having front and back sides, said display positioned on said front side;  
4 a handle fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and adapted to be gripped by a  
5 waiter's hand for holding said data entry terminal.

1 7. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 6  
2 further comprising a support member fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and  
3 having a generally arcuate configuration adapted to rest upon a forearm of a waiter when holding  
4 said data entry terminal.

1 8. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 1  
2 wherein said means for inputting restaurant order information comprises:

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means for displaying on said display a graphical representation of a plurality of table locations and a plurality of seat locations associated with each table location;  
means for displaying on said display a menu of food and drink items corresponding to said plurality of product records in said database; and  
a keypad and a plurality of buttons on said data entry terminal adjacent said display adapted to enable a waiter to select a table and seat location of a patron whose order is being taken and to select respective food and drink items ordered by said patron.

9. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 8 further comprising means for displaying a graphical representation of a single table once a waiter has selected a table location of a patron whose order is being taken, said graphical representation of a single table being positioned adjacent said display of a menu of food items upon said display.

10. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 8 wherein said means for displaying a graphical representation of a plurality of table locations includes means for displaying only those table locations assigned to be served by a selected waiter.

11. (currently amended) An electronic order and inventory information management system for use in managing a restaurant, comprising:

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3 a portable hand-held data entry terminal having a display and having means for inputting  
4 restaurant order information, said data entry terminal having a transceiver for  
5 transmitting said order information;

6 a database having a plurality of product records associated with products offered for sale at  
7 the restaurant, each product record including at least a menu selling price, a present  
8 inventory quantity, and an identifier associated with a vendor;

9 a host computer having a transceiver for receiving said transmitted order information, said  
10 host computer connected to said database and connected to a wide-area computer  
11 network;

12 ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for associating said transmitted order  
13 information with respective menu selling prices from said plurality of product  
14 records in said database;

15 ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for decrementing a respective  
16 inventory quantity of a respective product record corresponding to a respective  
17 product when said respective product is included in said transmitted order  
18 information;

19 ~~means-in wherein~~ said host computer includes means for automatically transmitting a  
20 signal along said wide-area network to a vendor computer corresponding to a  
21 respective vendor identifier when said respective inventory quantity is less than a  
22 predetermined quantity, said signal being indicative of an order for an additional  
23 quantity of said respective product; and

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24 wherein said host computer includes network circuitry for establishing a local area network  
25 between said host computer and remote network terminals positioned in the  
26 restaurant.

1 12. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim  
2 11 further comprising:

3 a kitchen terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display  
4 for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a food  
5 order, said kitchen terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer  
6 indicative of fulfillment of said food order; and

7 a drink terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display for  
8 displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a drink order,  
9 said drink terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer  
10 indicative of fulfillment of said drink order.

1 13. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim  
2 11 further comprising a billing terminal electrically connected to said local area network for  
3 receiving said transmitted order information and said associated menu selling prices, said billing  
4 terminal including means for calculating a total order sales amount and means for printing said  
5 transmitted order information and said total order sales amount.

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14. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 11 wherein said order information includes at least one customer seating location identifier and at least one food selection associated with said at least one seating location identifier, said at least one food selection corresponding to a respective product record.

15. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 11 wherein said data entry terminal comprises:

- a housing having front and back sides, said display positioned on said front side;
- a handle fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and adapted to be gripped by a waiter's hand for holding said data entry terminal; and
- a support member fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and having a generally arcuate configuration adapted to rest upon a forearm of a waiter when holding said data entry terminal.

16. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim 11 wherein said means for inputting restaurant order information comprises:

- means for displaying on said display a graphical representation of a plurality of table locations and a plurality of seat locations associated with each table location;
- means for displaying on said display a menu of food and drink items corresponding to said plurality of product records in said database; and

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7 a keypad and a plurality of buttons on said data entry terminal adjacent said display  
8 adapted to enable a waiter to select a table and seat location of a patron whose order  
9 is being taken and to select respective food and drink items ordered by said patron.

1 17. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim  
2 16 further comprising means for displaying a graphical representation of a single table once a  
3 waiter has selected a table location of a patron whose order is being taken, said graphical  
4 representation of a single table being positioned adjacent said display of a menu of food items  
5 upon said display.

1 18. (currently amended) An electronic order and inventory information management  
2 system for use in managing a restaurant, comprising:

3 a portable hand-held data entry terminal having a housing with front and back sides and  
4 defining an interior space, said data entry device further comprising:

5 a display positioned on said front side;

6 means ~~on said front side~~ for inputting restaurant order information;

7 a transceiver positioned in said interior space for transmitting said order  
8 information;

9 a handle fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and adapted to be  
10 gripped by a waiter, whereby to hold said data entry unit;



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11                   a support member fixedly attached to said back side of said housing and having  
12                   a generally arcuate support member adapted to rest upon an arm of a  
13                   waiter when said waiter is holding said handle;  
14           a database having a plurality of product records associated with food and drink products  
15                   offered for sale at the restaurant, each product record including at least a menu  
16                   selling price, a present inventory quantity, and an identifier associated with a vendor;  
17           a host computer having a transceiver for receiving said transmitted order information, said  
18                   host computer including network circuitry for establishing a local area network  
19                   between said host computer and remote network terminals;  
20           a kitchen terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display  
21                   for displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a food  
22                   order, said kitchen terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer  
23                   indicative of fulfillment of said food order;  
24           a drink terminal electrically connected to said local area network and having a display for  
25                   displaying a portion of said transmitted order information pertaining to a drink order,  
26                   said drink terminal adapted to transmit messages back to said host computer  
27                   indicative of fulfillment of said drink order; and  
28           ~~means-in~~ wherein said host computer includes means for decrementing a respective  
29                   inventory quantity of a respective product record corresponding to a respective  
30                   product when said respective product is included in said transmitted order  
31                   information.

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1 19. (currently amended) The order and inventory information management system as  
2 in claim 18 wherein:

3 said host computer is connected to a wide-area network; and

4 ~~said order and inventory information management system further comprising means in said~~

5 host computer includes means for automatically transmitting a signal along said

6 wide-area network to a vendor computer corresponding to a respective vendor

7 identifier when said respective inventory quantity is less than a predetermined

8 quantity, said signal being indicative of an order for an additional quantity of said

9 respective product.

1 20. (original) The order and inventory information management system as in claim  
2 18 wherein said means for inputting restaurant order information comprises:

3 means for displaying on said display a graphical representation of a plurality of table

4 locations and a plurality of seat locations associated with each table location;

5 means for displaying on said display a menu of food and drink items corresponding to said

6 plurality of product records in said database; and

7 a keypad and a plurality of buttons on said data entry terminal adjacent said display

8 adapted to enable a waiter to select a table and seat location of a patron whose order

9 is being taken and to select respective food and drink items ordered by said patron.